

The Woodworker's Guide to Routing

Introduction

The router is one of the most versatile tools in the woodworker's shop. It can be used for a wide variety of tasks, from simple edge routing to complex joinery. With a router, you can create beautiful moldings, decorative inlays, and even intricate carvings.

In this book, we will cover everything you need to know about using a router, from choosing the right tool and accessories to setting it up and using it safely. We will also provide detailed instructions for a variety of routing techniques, from basic edge routing to advanced joinery.

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced woodworker, this book will help you get the most out of your router. We will provide you with the knowledge

and skills you need to use this powerful tool safely and effectively.

With a little practice, you will be able to use your router to create beautiful and functional projects for your home and workshop.

This book is written in a clear and concise style, with step-by-step instructions and plenty of illustrations. We have also included a glossary of terms and a troubleshooting guide to help you get the most out of your router.

So what are you waiting for? Get started today and learn how to use your router to create beautiful and functional projects for your home and workshop!

Book Description

The Woodworker's Guide to Routing is the definitive guide to using a router, the most versatile tool in the woodworker's shop. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced woodworker, this book will help you get the most out of your router.

In this book, you will learn:

- How to choose the right router for your needs
- How to set up and use your router safely
- How to perform a variety of routing techniques, from basic edge routing to advanced joinery
- How to troubleshoot common routing problems

With clear and concise instructions, step-by-step illustrations, and a glossary of terms, The Woodworker's Guide to Routing is the only router book you will ever need.

With a router, you can create beautiful moldings, decorative inlays, and even intricate carvings. You can

also use a router to join wood pieces together, creating strong and durable joints.

The Woodworker's Guide to Routing will teach you how to use your router to create a variety of projects, from simple edge routing to complex joinery. You will also learn how to troubleshoot common routing problems, so you can keep your router running smoothly.

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced woodworker, The Woodworker's Guide to Routing will help you get the most out of your router. With this book, you will be able to create beautiful and functional projects for your home and workshop.

Chapter 1: Router Basics

What is a router

A router is a power tool that uses a rotating bit to cut into wood. It can be used for a variety of tasks, from simple edge routing to complex joinery. Routers are versatile tools that can be used to create a wide range of projects, from furniture to toys to home décor.

Routers come in a variety of sizes and shapes, and they can be used with a variety of different bits. The most common type of router is the plunge router, which has a base that can be plunged into the wood. Other types of routers include fixed-base routers, trim routers, and specialty routers.

Routers are powerful tools, and they can be dangerous if they are not used properly. It is important to read the owner's manual and follow all safety instructions before using a router.

- How does a router work?

A router works by spinning a bit at high speed. The bit is made of hardened steel, and it has a sharp cutting edge. When the bit is pressed into the wood, it cuts a groove. The depth of the groove is determined by the size of the bit and the speed at which the router is spinning.

Routers can be used to cut a variety of different shapes and sizes of grooves. They can be used to create straight edges, curved edges, and even intricate designs. Routers can also be used to cut dados, rabbets, and other types of joinery.

- What are the different types of routers?

There are a variety of different types of routers available, each with its own unique features and benefits. The most common type of router is the plunge router. Plunge routers have a base that can be plunged

into the wood, which makes them ideal for cutting dados and other types of joinery.

Fixed-base routers have a base that is fixed in place. This makes them ideal for tasks that require precise control, such as edge routing and inlay work.

Trim routers are small, lightweight routers that are ideal for trimming laminate and other thin materials.

Specialty routers are designed for specific tasks, such as dovetailing or mortising.

- What are the different types of router bits?

There are a wide variety of different router bits available, each with its own unique purpose. The most common type of router bit is the straight bit. Straight bits are used for cutting straight edges and dados.

Other types of router bits include:

- **Rabbeting bits:** Rabbeting bits are used for cutting rabbets, which are grooves that run along the edge of a piece of wood.
- **Rounding-over bits:** Rounding-over bits are used for rounding the edges of a piece of wood.
- **Cove bits:** Cove bits are used for cutting cove molding, which is a type of decorative molding with a concave shape.
- **Ogee bits:** Ogee bits are used for cutting ogee molding, which is a type of decorative molding with an S-shaped profile.

- How to choose the right router for your needs?

When choosing a router, it is important to consider your needs and budget. If you are a beginner, you may want to start with a smaller, less expensive router. As you gain experience, you can upgrade to a larger, more powerful router.

Here are a few things to consider when choosing a router:

- The size of the router: The size of the router will determine the size of the bits that you can use. If you plan on using large bits, you will need a larger router.
- The power of the router: The power of the router will determine how quickly and easily it can cut through wood. If you plan on cutting hard woods, you will need a more powerful router.
- The features of the router: Some routers come with a variety of features, such as variable speed control, soft start, and plunge base. These features can make the router easier and more versatile to use.

- How to use a router safely?

Routers are powerful tools, and they can be dangerous if they are not used properly. It is important to read the owner's manual and follow all safety instructions before using a router.

Here are a few safety tips for using a router:

- Always wear eye protection and hearing protection when using a router.
- Make sure that the router is securely clamped to your workbench.
- Never reach around the router bit while it is spinning.
- Keep your hands away from the router bit at all times.
- Unplug the router before making any adjustments.

Chapter 1: Router Basics

Types of routers

There are many different types of routers available on the market, each with its own unique features and capabilities. The type of router that you choose will depend on your specific needs and budget.

Fixed-base routers are the most basic type of router. They are typically less expensive than other types of routers, and they are easy to use. Fixed-base routers are ideal for basic routing tasks, such as edge routing and joinery.

Plunge routers are more versatile than fixed-base routers. They can be used for a wider variety of tasks, including plunge cutting, mortising, and dovetailing. Plunge routers are typically more expensive than fixed-base routers, but they offer greater precision and control.

Trim routers are the smallest and most portable type of router. They are ideal for small-scale routing tasks, such as trimming laminate and cutting dovetails. Trim routers are typically less powerful than other types of routers, but they are easy to handle and maneuver.

CNC routers are computer-controlled routers that are used for precision cutting and shaping. CNC routers are typically used in commercial applications, but they are becoming increasingly popular for home use. CNC routers are more expensive than other types of routers, but they offer the highest level of precision and control.

When choosing a router, it is important to consider the following factors:

- **Power:** The power of a router is measured in horsepower (HP). The more powerful the router, the more material it can remove.
- **Speed:** The speed of a router is measured in revolutions per minute (RPM). The faster the router, the smoother the cut.

- **Accuracy:** The accuracy of a router is determined by its construction and design. A well-made router will produce accurate cuts with minimal tear-out.
- **Versatility:** Some routers are more versatile than others. A versatile router can be used for a wider variety of tasks.
- **Price:** The price of a router can vary depending on its features and capabilities. It is important to set a budget before you start shopping for a router.

Once you have considered these factors, you can start shopping for a router that meets your needs.

Chapter 1: Router Basics

Router accessories

A variety of accessories are available to help you get the most out of your router. These accessories can help you to perform a wider range of tasks, improve the accuracy of your work, and make your routing safer.

One of the most important accessories for a router is a good quality router table. A router table provides a stable and accurate surface for routing, and it can help to prevent the router from tipping or moving during use. Router tables also typically include a fence, which can be used to guide the workpiece and ensure that the cut is straight and accurate.

Another essential accessory for a router is a set of router bits. Router bits are available in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, and they can be used to perform a variety of different routing tasks. Some of the most

common types of router bits include straight bits, rabbeting bits, dado bits, and dovetail bits.

In addition to router tables and router bits, there are a number of other accessories that can be useful for routing. These accessories include:

- **Edge guides:** Edge guides can be used to help you to rout along the edge of a workpiece. This can be useful for tasks such as trimming the edge of a board or creating a decorative edge.
- **Circle cutting jigs:** Circle cutting jigs can be used to help you to rout circles and arcs. This can be useful for tasks such as creating a hole for a sink or a door knob.
- **Mortising jigs:** Mortising jigs can be used to help you to rout mortises, which are rectangular holes that are used to join pieces of wood together.
- **Tenoning jigs:** Tenoning jigs can be used to help you to rout tenons, which are projections on the

end of a piece of wood that are used to join it to another piece of wood.

Router accessories can help you to get the most out of your router and to perform a wider range of tasks. By choosing the right accessories for your needs, you can improve the accuracy and safety of your routing work.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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